

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for manufacturing book covers from supplies of covering material, cover boards and spine inserts, the cover boards having edges including trailing and leading edges, the book cover having a height and a folding width, the apparatus comprising:
 - a board feed adapted for supplying cover boards and spine inserts from the supplies of cover boards and board inserts, respectively;
 - a covering material feed adapted for supplying covering material from the supply of covering material;
 - a glue spreading roller;
 - a covering material cylinder adapted for conveying the covering material past the glue spreading roller and assembling a book cover from the covering material, cover boards and spine inserts;
- 5 15 a folding and pressing apparatus for folding covering material projecting beyond the edges of the cover board around the edges of the cover board and pressing the book cover;
 - a delivery apparatus for delivering the book covers in stacks; and
- 10 20 a drive apparatus driving the covering material feed, the board feed, the covering material cylinder, and the folding and pressing apparatus, at least the covering material feed, the board feed and the folding and pressing apparatus being independently drivable from one another.
- 25 2. Apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a positioning control and wherein the drive apparatus includes an independent drive for each of the covering material feed, the board feed and the folding and pressing apparatus, the positioning control tuning the

independent drives of the covering material feed, the board feed and the folding and pressing apparatus to one another during operation and after stoppages.

3. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the covering material cylinder is directly simultaneously drivable by another of the independent drives.

4. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the drive apparatus includes an independent drive associated with the covering material cylinder.

10 5. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the covering material cylinder is directly connectable to another of the independent drives.

6. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein all of the independent drives are servo drives.

15 7. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein all of the independent drives are operable in clocked synchronism.

8. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein all of the independent drives are operable in angular synchronism.

9. Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein one of the servo drives is operated as a master and the other servo drives are operated in each case as a slave.

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10. Apparatus according to claim 9, characterized in that the independent drive of the folding and pressing apparatus is the master and the other independent drives are in each case a slave.

5 11. Apparatus according to claim 6 further comprising a central control unit defining a virtual master, each of the independent drives being a slave.

10 12. Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the board feed reciprocates over a stroke from an input position, where the board feed engages the trailing edge of the cover board, to a discharge position, where the cover board is delivered by the leading edge, the position of the board feed in the stroke being adjustable relative to the height of the book cover by means of the servo drive.

15 13. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the covering material feed and the covering material cylinder are electronically adjustable relative to the folding width of the book cover.

20 14. Apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising covering material detector means for detecting the position of the leading edge of the covering material and wherein the drive apparatus includes a cylinder drive for the covering material cylinder, the covering material detector means sending a signal to the cylinder drive for aligning the covering material cylinder, whereby the covering material is combined in the correct position with the boards.

15. Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the servo drives have overload functions.